

# PS BUDGET CUTS NEWS

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## I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

It's been an emotional fortnight with unions taking hundreds of calls from Members whose lives have been thrown into turmoil by Premier Giddings' threat to cut up to 3500 public sector jobs to address a budget revenue shortfall.

Callers have expressed great uncertainty about their future and some say they'll have no alternative other than to move their family interstate if their job is slashed. One caller, a single mother with two young children, said 'I just don't know what to do'.

Many who've committed a great portion of their lives to proudly providing high quality services to the community are grieving for future clients who'll be denied a similar standard of service.

**Members are asking 'How did we get to this crisis point when the government kept telling us the budget was fine?'**

You simply wouldn't have known there was a crisis coming if you listened to the government.

• *Read a few of the comments about the economy made by senior Ministers in the last 4 months of 2010 on page 2.*

All through this whole period the government continued to make new spending decisions - decisions that may now directly result in job losses.

• *See page 2 for some of the spending decisions it announced in a last 4 months of 2010.*

**Many recent spending decisions must be questionable if jobs and services across the board are now to be cut.**

Why should we trust the Premier's financial plan when she leads a government that's shown such poor judgement when it comes to financial management?

The mid-year financial report lacks empathy. It's a cold, emotionless document - a banker's approach that fails to properly consider the thousands of lives it will throw into chaos.

Tasmania has to live within its means but the Premier's cure is too harsh and the cost for Tasmanian families far too high.

**There is an alternative to the bankers approach.**

It may take a bit longer and there may be some short term debt but if it avoids seeing up to 12,000 Tasmanians losing their jobs it has to be a better approach.

Over the next few months meetings will be arranged with Members in their workplaces throughout the state.

These will detail an alternate plan for Tasmania's finances - a plan that will see jobs protected, the public sector being made as

efficient as possible and services to the community being put on a sustainable basis.

We'll be asking Members to become involved in possibly the most important campaign we've run in decades.

**It won't be an easy campaign.**

Influential forces like the TCCI use every effort to convince the government to implement its right wing, anti public sector agenda so we'll need to marshal all our resources against them.

### STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

During discussions with government officials last week the ugly spectre of terminating workers through the State Service Act section 47 redeployment mechanism was raised.

Under this mechanism workers defined as 'surplus to requirements' can be placed on a redeployment list for 12 months and if a suitable role is not found during that period they can then be terminated.

*But the government ruled out using this mechanism to sack workers before the last election so you can be confident this won't happen... really... just trust them...*

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ▶ **Attend a meeting in your workplace**
- ▶ **Talk to your colleagues about the impact cuts would have in your workplace**
- ▶ **Encourage non-members to join a union**



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## 2010 Statements about the Economy

**1 Sept** - Treasurer Michael Aird said today that the latest ABS national account figures are further evidence of the ongoing, broad economic recovery in Tasmania.

**2 Sept** - Minister for Economic Development Lara Giddings said today's ABS trade figures continue to show signs of a Tasmanian export recovery.

**5 Sept** - Treasurer Michael Aird said today he was disappointed that the Liberals continued to talk down the Tasmanian economy.

**9 Sept** - Treasurer Michael Aird said today he was encouraged by the latest ABS labour force data showing an additional 300 Tasmanians were employed in August. *"This data is consistent with the Government's projections for employment growth over the next few years and highlights that our target of 15,000 new jobs during this term is achievable."*

**14 Sept** - Treasurer Michael Aird said today he was fed up with the Liberals continuing to talk down the Tasmanian economy with their selective reading of economic data. *"The fact is that the Tasmanian economy is in much more positive position than Mr Gutwein would have people believe."*

**7 Oct** - Treasurer Michael Aird has welcomed the latest ABS labour force data showing a drop in the unemployment rate in September. Mr Aird said the Tasmanian economy is *"showing positive signs for economic growth across indicators such as exports, population growth and employment."*

**14 Oct** - Minister for Economic Development Lara Giddings today welcomed new data which showed strong growth in Tasmania's building activity and commercial lending. *"The latest figures show an underlying economic recovery."*

**26 Oct** - Treasurer Michael Aird said the latest Access Economics Business Outlook has confirmed Tasmania's economy has held up well in the wake of the global economic downturn. Mr Aird said there had been a number of positive signs in the Tasmanian economy, demonstrating steady, underlying economic growth.

**28 Oct** - Treasurer Michael Aird today released the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report 2009-10. Mr Aird said that while the 2009-10 outcome indicates that the state has fared better than expected during the global slowdown there is more to be done.

**15 Nov** - Treasurer Michael Aird has welcomed the latest ABS data on lending finance, saying that it is further confirmation that the economy is continuing to improve in the wake of the global economic downturn.

**17 Nov** - Treasurer Michael Aird today called on the Liberal Party to start making a positive contribution to the economic and financial debate in Tasmania. *"It's time Mr Hodgman realised that strong financial management is not about immediately making shrill claims about job losses, wage increases and higher taxes every time there is a Budget challenge"* Mr Aird said. *"What this Government has always provided is a steady hand on the State's finances."*

**13 Dec** - Premier and Acting Treasurer David Bartlett today welcomed the latest proof of strength and resilience in the Tasmanian economy. Today's ABS data on lending finance is another indication that the overall Tasmanian economy is stronger than it was a year ago, in the wake of the global economic downturn.

## 2010 Spending Announcements

**1 Sept** - Minister for Economic Development Lara Giddings today announced 24 businesses would receive a total of just over \$1 million in funding through the Regional Assistance Program-Tasmania (RAP-Tas).

**7 Sept** - Parliamentary Secretary for the Northern Economy Brian Wightman today announced \$10,000 in State Government funding for the North-East Rivers Festival.

**19 Sept** - Minister for Sport David O'Byrne MP today inspected major West Coast cycleway projects to be developed with funding of \$1 million over the next three years.

**4 Oct** - Minister for Sport David O'Byrne MP said the State Government, through Sport and Recreation Tasmania's Major Grants Program, provided \$80,000 to the Clarence Council to redevelop the Lindisfarne number two oval.

**5 Oct** - Premier David Bartlett this morning officially launched one of Australia's premier boating events - the 2011 Australian Wooden Boat Festival. Mr Bartlett said the 2011 festival will be much bigger than previous years, because of one-off extra funding of \$300,000 from the State Government, announced earlier this year.

**6 Oct** - Minister for Sport and Recreation David O'Byrne and the Lord Mayor of Hobart Alderman Rob Valentine made the announcement at the tennis centre, which has recently been upgraded to world class standard thanks to \$3.5 million from State Government, \$1.2 million from the Commonwealth and \$225,000 from Hobart City Council.

**29 Oct** - Minister for Health and Member for Bass Michelle O'Byrne said the George Town Community Bowls Club could be bowling on a new synthetic green by Christmas thanks to \$150,000 from the State Government.

**30 Oct** - Minister for Sport David O'Byrne today announced details of \$2.25 million in State Government funding for the ongoing development of Surf Life Saving in Tasmania, as he attended the 2010 Mercury Surf Safari.

**12 Nov** - Minister for Veterans' Affairs Bryan Green said today the State Government has established the War Memorial Repair and Maintenance Grants Program that will allocate \$50,000 a year for projects.

**12 Nov** - Premier David Bartlett today announced a new contract bringing the V8 Supercars back to Symmons Plains for the next three years. Mr Bartlett said the new \$1.7 million contract would guarantee events for 2011, 2012 and 2013, which was great news for the state's economy and for Tasmanian motorsport supporters.

**15 Nov** - Premier David Bartlett today announced a new and improved five-year sponsorship deal between the Tasmanian Government and the Hawthorn Football Club. Continuation of CPI indexation in the current contract for 2012 would have been around \$3.7 million - the new deal will set the base at \$3.375 million a year, indexed.

**27 Dec** - Minister for Sport and Recreation Brian Wightman has congratulated Matthew Goss who won today's Stan Siejka Launceston Cycling Classic. Mr Wightman said the State Government has been a proud supporter of this year's event, with a contribution of \$15,000 through Sport and Recreation Tasmania.